

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-15 (Canceled)

16. (New) A wheelchair lift comprising:

a platform for carrying a passenger;

a lifting mechanism secured at one end to a vehicle and at the other end to the platform adjacent to an inboard end of the platform for moving the platform between a ground level position, a transfer level position and a vertically-stowed position;

a plate pivotally connected to the inboard end of the platform and moveable between a raised barrier position and a lowered bridging position; and

a linkage system coupled to the plate for moving the plate between the raised barrier position and the lowered bridging position, the linkage system cooperating with the lifting mechanism and connected to the platform for moving the platform from the transfer level position to the vertically-stowed position.

17. (New) The wheelchair lift of claim 16 wherein the lifting mechanism comprises a parallelogram structure.

18. (New) The wheelchair lift of claim 16 wherein the linkage system comprises a telescoping member.

19. (New) The wheelchair lift of claim 16 comprising an actuator link pivotally extending between the linkage system and the plate, the actuator link operable to move the plate between the raised barrier position and the lowered bridging position.

20. (New) The wheelchair lift of claim 16 wherein the linkage system comprises a pair of arms of unequal length.

21. (New) The wheelchair lift of claim 20 wherein a longer arm of the pair of arms is a telescoping member.

22. (New) The wheelchair lift of claim 16 wherein the linkage system comprises a first arm extending from the lifting mechanism and a second arm extending from the platform.

23. (New) The wheelchair lift of claim 22 wherein the second arm is a telescoping member.

24. (New) The wheelchair lift of claim 23 wherein telescoping movement of the second arm moves the plate between the raised barrier position and the lowered bridging position.

25. (New) The wheelchair lift of claim 24 comprising an actuator link extending between the second arm of the linkage assembly and the plate, the actuator link operable to move the plate between the raised barrier position and the lowered bridging position.

26. (New) The wheelchair lift of claim 17 wherein contact between the linkage system and the parallelogram structure causes the linkage system to move the plate between the raised barrier position and the lowered bridging position.